GIRLS OF ANIME

volume 1

FEATURING

Motoko Kusanagi
Queen Emeraldas
Princess Al
Grenadier
Burst Angel
Tenjho Tenge
Seras Victoria
Lady Death
Ikki Tousen
Faye Valentine
Mezzo TV
Azumanga Daioh
Neo Ranga
Gantz
Dirty Pair
Utena
And many more...

Girls of Anime

Vol.1

Foreword

Love of anime is a passion like no other. Once you're hooked you're a fan for life but the stigma of all "anime" consisting of squealing pink haired high-school girls or monologuing muscle heads (or small boys in short pants) in giant robots still lingers. Hopefully this look at the femme side of the medium will help break down those barriers. Not that anime has lost its squealing pink haired high-school girls or monologuing muscle heads--they remain as popular as ever in their modern digital guise--there's just more of everything else to contrast them. From Gun Sword's Carmen, to Ghost in the Shell's Major Motoko Kusanagi, Bebop's Jill Valentine, and those wonderful Burst Angels. Anime heroines deliver consistently bravado performances, have no qualms about bearing all and, no matter how big the gross, never demand more money. For your animated pleasure...Girls of Anime part 1. Dave Halverson

On the cover
Parasite Dolls (ADV Films)

WRITTEN BY

Dave Halverson, Jim Dewey, and Nick Des Barres

DESIGN

Michael Hobbs and Nelson Lui

COPY EDITOR

Zach Korwin

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ANGEL LINKS

Meifon Li

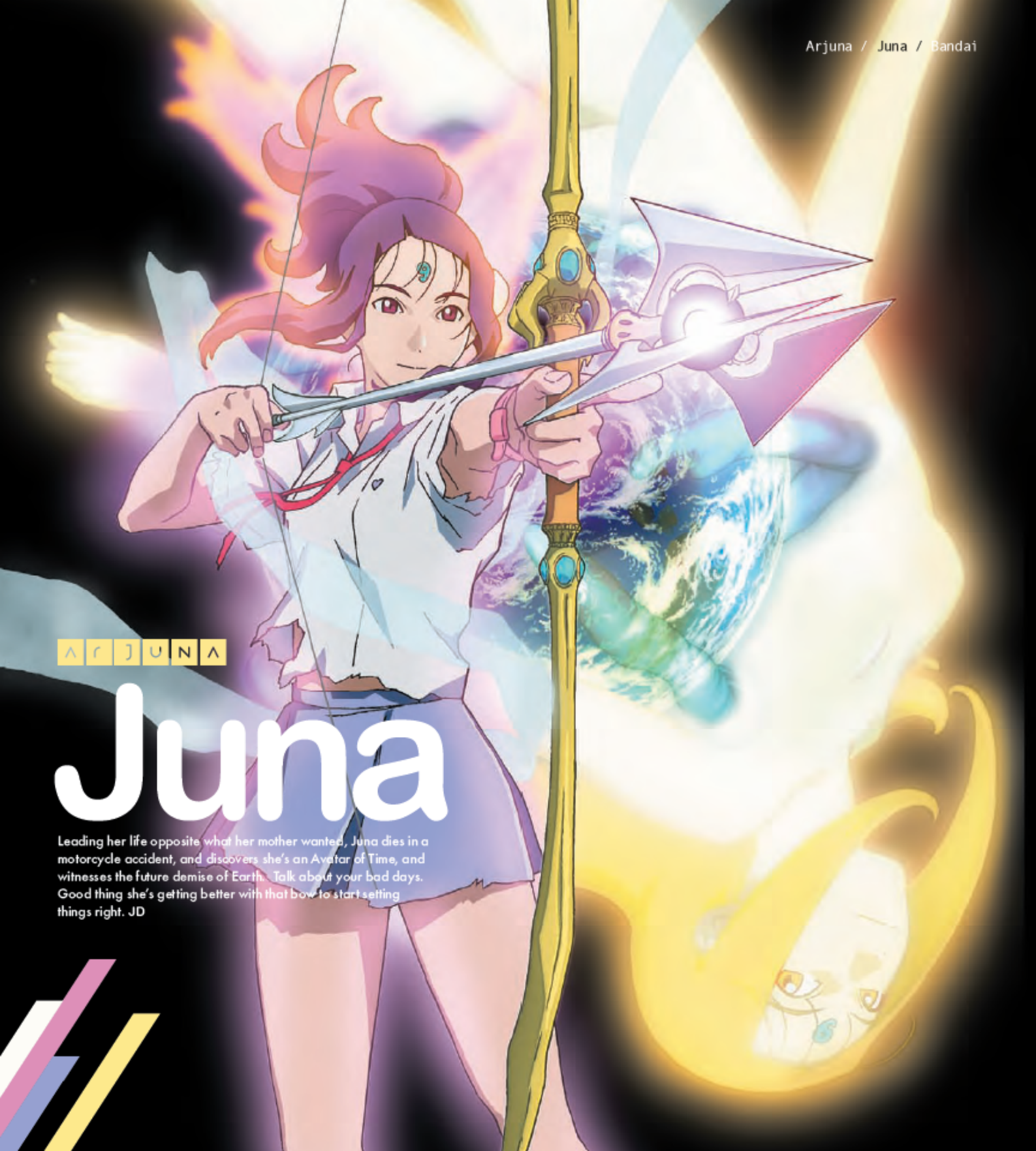
Sixteen, left in charge of her deceased grandfather's fortune to run a company offering safe passage through the solar system, and a ragtag crew to do it with, well, let's just say she does more before 10 A.M. than you'll do all day. JD

APPLESEED

Deunan Knute

Plucked out of a war she didn't even realize was over, Deunan must come to grips with some new realities, such as her newly cybernetic boyfriend, and acclimating with a utopian society where humans and "Bioroids" live together in harmony. When unrest creeps in (and does it ever) it's back to doing what she does best, and this time it's personal. Originally created by Shirow Masamune back in 1988 (inset) the stunning CGI remake was released just last year and is requisite viewing. DH

The original Shirow Masamune artwork from the 1988 OVA



ARJUNA

Juna

Leading her life opposite what her mother wanted, Juna dies in a motorcycle accident, and discovers she's an Avatar of Time, and witnesses the future demise of Earth. Talk about your bad days. Good thing she's getting better with that bow to start setting things right. JD

Kagura

Sakaki

AZUMANGA DAIOH

These two are like everyone's id and ego... Kagura's the competitive one, always trying to outdo everyone, but Sakaki is gentle, soft-spoken, and a natural physical talent in sports. Fierce and kind, that's this pair. JD

In the erotic Bible Black (for which the name says it all), a magic book with dark, sensuous powers, initially owned by a female student, Takashiro, spawns a magic club on campus where curious students begin to use the erotic spells to carry out various sexual favors and, of course, vengeance. As the power of the book transcends leaders, the club spirals down a darker course, where anime fans under 18 dare not wander. DH

Jody

Kitami

Imari

Saya is very good at what she does-- killing vampire-like creatures with impunity.

Don't let the Pippi Longstocking braids fool you-- her blade dictates she's not here for fun and games, and the only song she sings is one of death. JD

Burn-Up Scramble / Licia Evett, Rio Kinezono, Maya Jinguu / Geneon Ent.
Rio
Kinezono
Lilica
Evett
Maya
Jinguu
BURN-UP
SCRAMBLE
These girls have been through thick and thin together, and no maniacal, devious plot is going to dissuade them from being the best damn cops on the force--even if they do work for a covert division in it. Guns, gams, and guts aplenty. JD

Girls, guns, and giant robots collide in a city gone mad courtesy of the Burst Angels, the only crime-busting force with enough metal to take on a new breed of criminal, in a society where guns are strictly prohibited. Working out of a massive mobile HQ equipped with its own massive giant robot, Jango, and even a resident chef (the humble Kyohei—in way over his head). Meg (in yellow) is the adventurous and fearless one; Sei (in black leather and trench) is the leader; little Amy (in pink) is the computer master; and Jo (wearing her trademark tank) wields super-human powers, and, as the enforcer, pilots Jango. Maria (the dark angel) is one of many characters from Jo's tragic past. DH

Burst Angel / Meg, Sei, Jo, Amy / FUNimation

Burst Angel / Meg, Sei, Jo, Amy / FUNimation

Street Fighter II: The Movie

Cammy

Attempting to ease the pain caused by seeing Kylie Minogue as Cammy in the film that would send the amazing Raul Julia home in a box, many an anime has followed, from a lame TV series to a couple of good animated movies, most of which do Cammy similar (but not nearly as much) justice as the version you see here appearing in Udon's Street Fighter comic books. DH

CHRONO CRUSADE
Rosette
Christopher

Burst Angel / Rosette Christopher / ADV Films

Rosette may be a sister of the Magdalene Order, but when it comes to exterminating demons, the gloves come off. Working together with her partner Chrono, they exterminate demonic sinners in New York City circa 1928 A.D. where post-war economic prosperity has given rise to a siege of hell spawn. These two are their one-way ticket back. DH

HARLOCK SAGA

Queen Emeraldas

From the Captain Harlock mythos, harkening back to Star Blazers, comes Leiji Matsumoto's most famous spin-off; Queen Emeraldas. One of the most elegant and romantic female figures in the annals of animation, Queen Emeraldas sails the endless sea of space fighting the tyranny of a merciless master race whilst tormented by the loss of her true love. Captain Kirk wouldn't stand a chance. DH

Daphne in the Brilliant Blue / Maia Mizuki, Rena Honjo, Shizuka Hayama, Gloria, Yuu Paku / Geneon Ent.

There's following your dreams, and then there's making sure there's food on the table. Innocent Maia wanted to be a part of the prestigious Marine Environment Agency, but failing her test, she had to take a job with security agency Neres... being shot at sure makes life harder, and tight, revealing work outfits aren't helping. JD

NIGHT WARRIORS

Morrigan

Felicia

In Capcom's world of Night Warriors, legendary monsters are living, breathing, and divided. Vampire Dimitri is king of the human world and Morrigan the succubus queen of the demons, and they both have humanity on the menu. In the end however, only one man, Donovan, a half-breed, can help them escape the alien Pyron. Based on the popular fighting game series, one of Darkstalkers's most beloved characters, Felicia, is one of two who consider humans as equals. Pictured here, Felicia and Morrigan as presented in the Udon Comics series. DH

DESERT PUNK

Junko

Manipulative? Yes. Seductive? Most assuredly. Voluptuous? Definitely. And Desert Punk doesn't mind being the string wrapped around her finger. It does get lonely out there on the hot sandy environment after all. And she's no mirage. JD

DEVIL LADY

Fudo Jun

Chances are you've heard of Devil Man, but Devil Lady provides as much, if not more mutated mayhem. A beautiful supermodel by day, by night Jun evolves into a flesh-eating demon infected with the same gene that's turning people into super-human killing machines. Able to control her urge to slaughter humans, she is recruited by the mysterious Asuka Ran, a secret organization within the government, charged with eliminating the berserk destroyers of mankind. DH

DIVERGENCE EVE

Don't let the outfits fool you-- these pilot candidates are all business when it comes to fighting the Ghouls throughout time and space. Even little Kotoko can throw down despite her childlike appearance. Eyes front, mister. JD

Luxandra
Frail
Suzanna
Bluestein
Misaki
Kureha

Divergence Eve / Misaki Kureha, Luxandra Frail, Suzanna Bluestein, Kiri Marialate, Kotoko-01 / Geneon Ent.

Elfen Lied / Lucy_Nyuu / ADV Films

ELFEN LIED

Lucy/Nyuu

Believe it when we say that this young woman is not someone you want to tick off. She may appear sweet, but she'll just as soon take your head off without hesitation-- literally. Escaping from a lab, she kills just about everyone there in doing it. It's going to take more than a few hugs to straighten her out. JD

Eureka Seven / Eureka and Talho / Bandai Ent.

Eureka

Talho

EUREKA SEVEN

Renton is a 14-year-old boy living in his dad's shadow with a dream of one day surfing the skies like his hero, Holland, leader of the "Gekko State" mercenary group. Not only does he get that chance but he may just get the girl too: Eureka (opposite page). This page, meet Talho, the Gekko State's ship's helmsman. Talk about your friendly skies. DH

FINAL FANTASY UNLIMITED

Lisa

After the strange disappearance of their researcher parents, brother and sister Ai and Yu, decide to go looking for them, boarding a strange train to a parallel world, which is where they meet Lisa (and her handy demon-summoning sidearm) the best reason to sit through the rest of the Alice in Wonderland-style "Fantasy" that, like the first Final Fantasy anime and the feature film, have no direct correlation with any of the games. DH

FULL METAL PANIC FUMOFFU

Enjoying a rare moment without her classmate and body guard, Sousuke Sagara—the war-freak assigned by the military to protect her—Kaname longs for a normal life she'll never have as a "Whisperer", although deep down it's obvious she cares for Sousuke ...way deep down. Long story short, you really don't want to be anywhere near her when Sousuke is in the vicinity. DH

NEON GENESIS EVANGELION

Asuka Langley Soryu

Bitchy, self-absorbed, always competitive, Asuka's got a chip on her shoulder the size of a hundred-foot mecha, and she knows how to use it. Better stand behind her or get out of her way, because it's winner-take-all with this fiery redhead. JD

Artist: Hyung Tae Kim

GANTZ

Kei Kishimoto

It sucks being almost dead... even worse when you're made to jump through hoops just to have eternal peace. Still, Kishimoto makes the best of it, and stands behind her fellow beyonder Kurono... and perhaps finds love along the way...JD

GENESHAFT

Girls and their robots, there's just no separating them, especially if they're highly talented, genetically engineered ones. These smart and lovely ladies are burdened with stopping a mysterious alien ring around their planet using their brains and their 'bots. JD

Ginrei

Secret agents come in slinky packages these days in the Giant Robo universe, and her ability to teleport definitely puts her a step ahead of your average Bond-ed soldier. Sexy, crafty, and only at the edge of twenty-somethingness, she'll get the mission done every time. JD

GIRLS BRAVO

Miharu-chan
(and friends)

Yukinara has a strange affliction. He's been so beaten down throughout his youth that he develops a rare condition going into his high school years: Whenever he touches or even gets close to a pretty girl he breaks out in hives. Imagine his surprise when he is transported to a parallel universe through his bathtub, populated by wall to wall girls...that all want him, and not a man in sight. Wait 'til the guys (and girls) back home meet Miharu-chan–the one he brings back. DH

Ghost in the Shell Stand Alone Complex / Motoko Kusanagi / Bandai_Manga Ent.

Motoko Kusanagi

Made famous by the groundbreaking cyberpunk epic Ghost in the Shell, Colonel Kusanagi became the poster heroine for synthetic beings, although the ending left fans wanting more, which after ten years finally arrived. Stand Alone Complex finds a more "human" Kusanagi embedded and ever the core of Section 9, the Special Forces team brought in to solve the most odious crimes where the clues are often hidden in the "Ghosts" of the android perpetrators. These two very different looks (among many) express the countless ways in which the Major has been depicted in recent years. DH

GRENADIER
Rushuna

There's more to Rushuna than meets the eye, even though that's a lot. She's also a Senshi (gun master) who is traveling the world with one purpose: To make it a peaceful place by taking away people's will to fight by making them smile. Of course it never works and so we get to see her in action constantly, and there is no finer gun in the west. She can reload in mid-spin by popping rounds out of her cleavage...so, she wins. The kid is Yajiro, a mercenary/master swordsman she meets along the way who joins her crusade (mostly for the free grub). **DH**

GUN SWORD

The diminutive but tough pistol-packin' Wendy (inset) hitches her wagon to Vaughn the mecha-summoning super human gunfighter to find her kidnapped brother—with a little help from freelance information broker Carmen 99—in Geneon's latest neo western fantasy epic; Gun Sword. DH

Wendy

Carmen 99

In Hellsing, Seras Victoria arrives at the scene of a crime a flesh-and-blood police officer, but soon finds herself in a precarious position. A vampire holds her life in his hands, as Arucard, a vampire working for the Hellsing Organization to exterminate his own kind, takes aim…Once turned she becomes a willing pawn in a most unholy war, along with her weapon of choice: the bazooka. DH

Hellsing 454 Casull
Seras
Victoria

HELLSING
AND SHINE HEAVEN NOW

Jesus Christ
HELLSING ARMS WEAPO

IGPX

Amy Stapleton

The Immortal Grand Prix (IGPX); 2035's racing sensation (sorry F-Zero) may look like no place for a girl, but tell that to Amy Stapleton, who is so in-tune with her racing mech she can channel its thoughts. As a part of the underdog squad Team Sotomi she needs all of the strategic help, including her cat Luca. DH

Ryumou

Hakufu Sonsaku

IKKI TOUSEN

Part of an 1800-year bloodline of legendary warriors, Hakafu does battle among other ancient warriors reincarnated into the students of seven top-schools in the Kanto region. She's a dim bulb for sure, but she's also rumored to be the Shou-Haou, the chosen one said to defeat many in battle. With a nickname like "Booby Bombs" she'll need all of the skills she can get. How much does she love to fight? In the fight versus Ryumou,** being put into a headlock causes her to—well, let's just say it's an exciting climax.

COWBOY BEBOP

Faye Valentine

Look, when you've been cryogenically frozen for half a century, thawed, and stuck with not only your costs but your boyfriend-turned-con-man as well, you'd be inclined to get into bounty-hunting too. Looking out for herself isn't just a nice idea, it's all she's ever known.

DRAGON HALF

Mink

What do you get when your parents are human and dragon? You're looking at her. Don't blame her dad--her mom was a good-looking blonde in disguise. She can fly, she can light birthday candles with her breath, and she's boy-crazy. JD

Lady Death: The Motion Picture / Lady Death / ADV Films

LADY DEATH

Lady Death

Betrayed by her father, burned at the stake, and sent to bake in hell, Hope went from young and in love to dead and really pissed off at her dad, the devil. Once in Hell things go from bad to worse as she flings herself into the depths after discovering the true fate of her lover and mother. Amassing a huge army to stand against her father (who should really invest in better security) Lady Death is a woman scorned in Hell who hath much fury. DH

MASTER OF MOSQUITON

Mosquiton is a vampire resurrected by Inaho as her slave, to assist in her quest for the O-part; an ancient relic that will grant her immortality, and she'll kill (and resurrect—it's like a reset button) "Mosky" as many times as necessary to get what she's after. Meanwhile, some three-hundred years prior, Mosquiton's master was a woman named Camille, and the two were so deeply in love that she too became immortal. Save it to say Camille's not so wild to see her beloved in his neutered state when she pops back into the sordid picture. DH

REVOLUTIONARY GIRL UTENA

Utena Tenjo

Utena is a strong-willed girl so infatuated with a childhood vision of a Prince who saved her life that she decides to become one herself. Not a Princess, mind you, but a Prince. After receiving a letter from a mysterious individual known as the "Ends of the World", she becomes embroiled in countless fencing duels to win the heart of the "Rose Bride", the equally mysterious Anthy Himemiya. NDB

Artist: Ryotaro

FLCL

Haruka Haruhara

She rides a snappy Vespa, swings around a vintage Rickenbacker, and generally causes mayhem. Other than this, little is known about the enigmatic Haruko, except for the fact that she can use her bass to whack people on the skull, thus causing giant robots to erupt from their foreheads. Don't question such things – Haruko is Haruko, and that's really all you need to know. NDB

Artist: Ryusuke Hamamoto

Dirty Pair

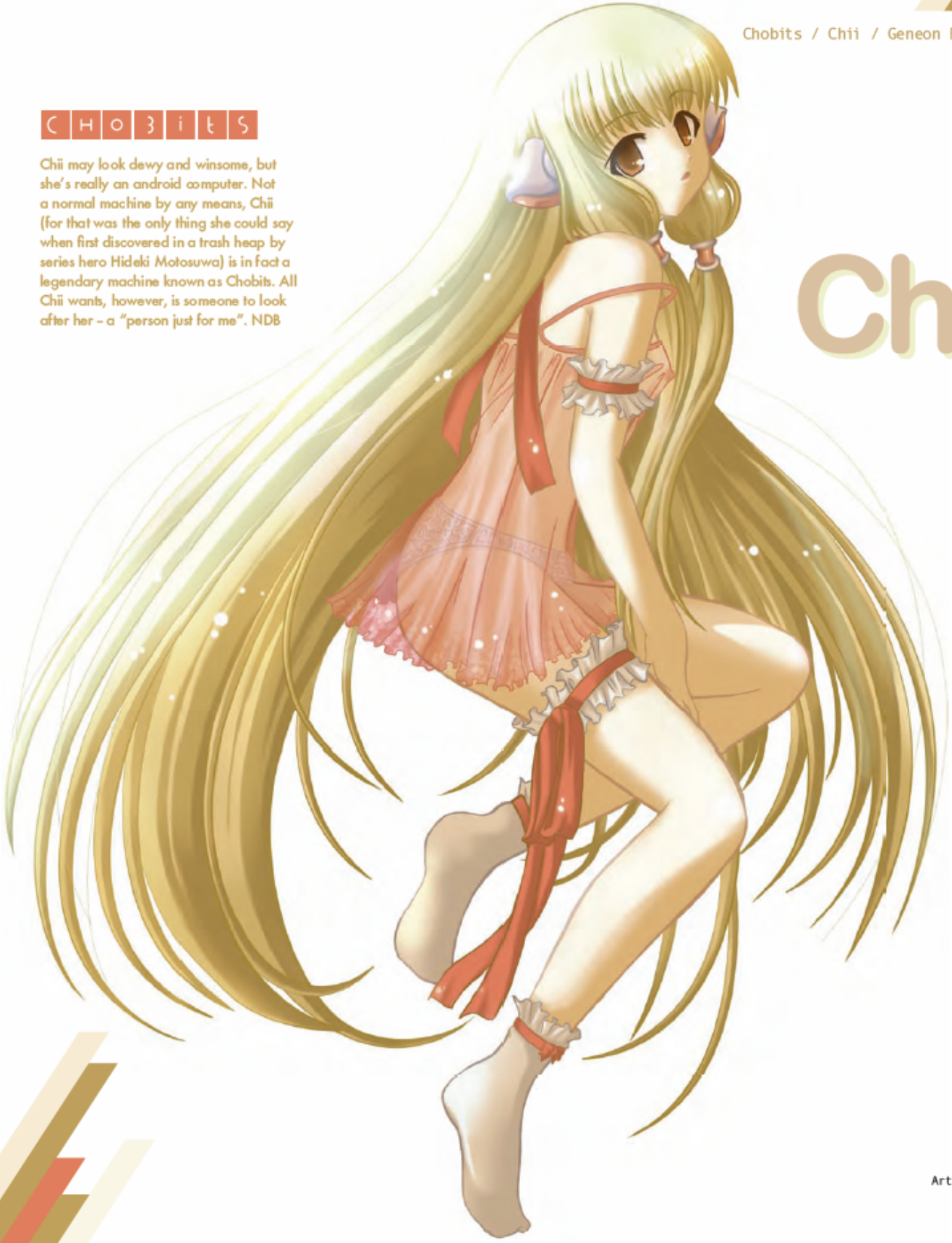
She's fiery! She's passionate! She's more than a little crazy! She's Kei! She's level-headed! She knows how to use her cuteness as a weapon! She's Yuri! Together, they're the Dirty Pair (just don't call them that to their face) working as all-purpose problem solvers for the WWWA. Of course, the solution to these problems almost always involves mass destruction. NDB

Artist: Ryu Naitoh

Chii

CHOBITS

Chii may look dewy and winsome, but she's really an android computer. Not a normal machine by any means, Chii (for that was the only thing she could say when first discovered in a trash heap by series hero Hideki Motosuwa) is in fact a legendary machine known as Chobits. All Chii wants, however, is someone to look after her – a "person just for me". NDB



Artist: Inui Ookawa

Leave it to this crew to find those monsters living amongst the populace. Not an easy task... getting along, not finding the monsters, that is. Ancient mythical methods collide with technology in this soirée. JD

Mezzo TV / Mikura Suzuki / ADV Films
USA
MEZZO TV
Mikura Suzuki
"Action" probably really is her middle name, but by the time she's done schooling you, your brain would be like pudding to comprehend your own name. Knuckles or guns, either one gets it done for her. Little Asami wants to be just like her someday... JD

MIAMI GUNS

Lu has a hard time with her new partner Yao, mostly because Yao joined from thinking it'd be a "fun job" to have chases and guns... and Yao is a spoiled brat to boot. Lu's by-the-book– Yao will just beat you with it. JD

MOUSE

Mei Momozono

One doesn't have to go very far to see what Mouse is really all about. The ruse is 20-year-old Sorata; nerdy art instructor by day, internationally infamous thief Mouse, by night, assisted by his three gorgeous, busty attendants - Mei Momozono the math teacher, Hazuki Kakio the PE teacher, and Yayoi Kuribayashi the school nurse. Say it with me now... "Fan service". DH

Yamanoue Gakuen (Setagaya, Tokyo) is a mammoth school with 3 udents, ing elementary, secondary and university education. SORATA MUON, twen s old, is a me teacher of fine arts at the high school, while attending the university as a f student. H ite reserved and could even be unreliable, but it seems these characters im is students fa ly and make him somehow popular among them, though it may mean th y show disres calling him "Chu-ta"(mouse boy, a different reading of his name). But n nows his anot is....the sensational thief, MOUSE!! His theft is magnificent and splendi three beautif MEI MOMOZONO, YAYOI KURIBAYASHI, HAZUKI KAKIO, us t sum of mo perfectly trained techniques, he steals anything he targets, such as t most gorgeo from the high security system, the whole museum to get antique coll nally, the e high rise building entirely! Even the police fumbled about with echniques MOUSE has predators, the enormous criminal syndicate, conne th f t and back world, Sacred Security Secret Society, known as "4S". "Inv to him. Yet, impossible is a word not to be found in his dictionary—nothing cannot be stolen by MOUSE.

My-HiME / Mai Tokiha, Natsuki Kuga, Mikoto Minagi / Bandai Entertainment

MY-HiME

As if school wasn't hard enough, these three ladies have the ability to conjure up weapons out of thin air and throw down with superhuman results. Personal issues tend to come to light easily, so try not to upset them. JD

NAJICA BLITZ TACTICS

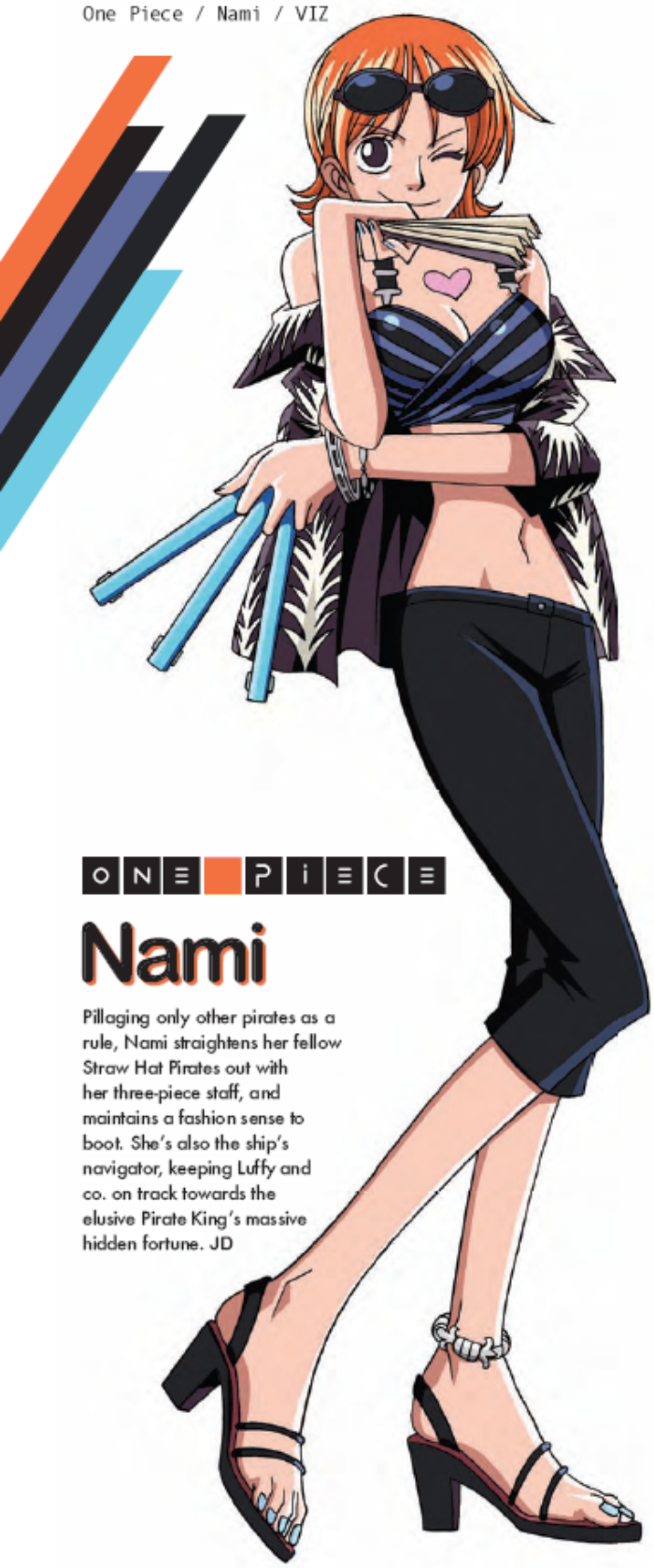
Najica Hiiragi

Perfume creator by day, short-skirted super-spy by night– her mission is to take down sexy assassin robots before they complete their mission, even if it means putting herself in compromising positions. Solid Snake should have it so good. JD

NURSE WITCH KOMUGI

These two friends have an unusual side to them... Koyori blacks out and starts infecting people in her evil alter-ego transformation, and Komugi counteracts it by morphing into a nurse... with rabbit ears. No one can say their lives aren't interesting, that's for sure. JD

One Piece / Nami / VIZ

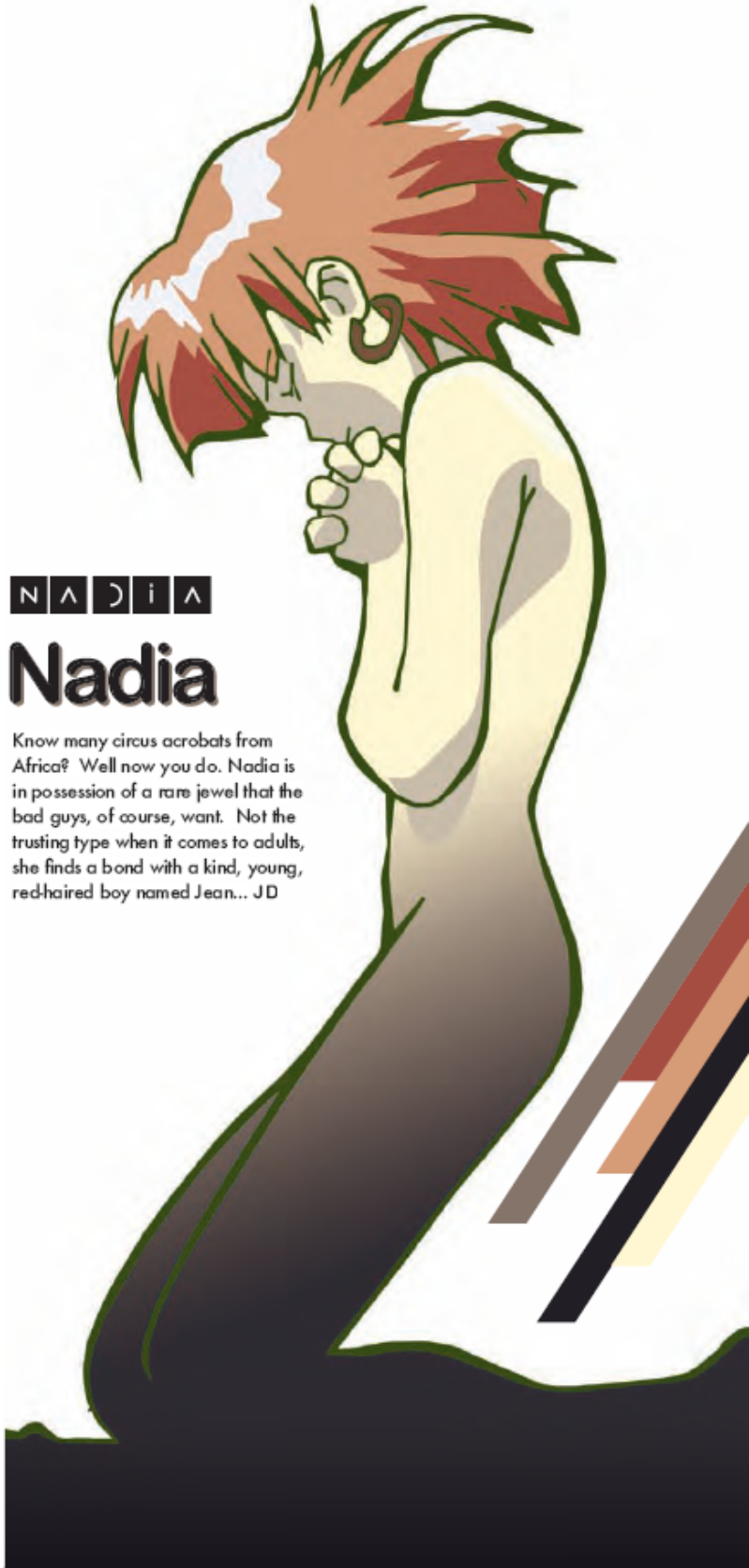


ONE PIECE

Nami

Pillaging only other pirates as a rule, Nami straightens her fellow Straw Hat Pirates out with her three-piece staff, and maintains a fashion sense to boot. She's also the ship's navigator, keeping Luffy and co. on track towards the elusive Pirate King's massive hidden fortune. JD

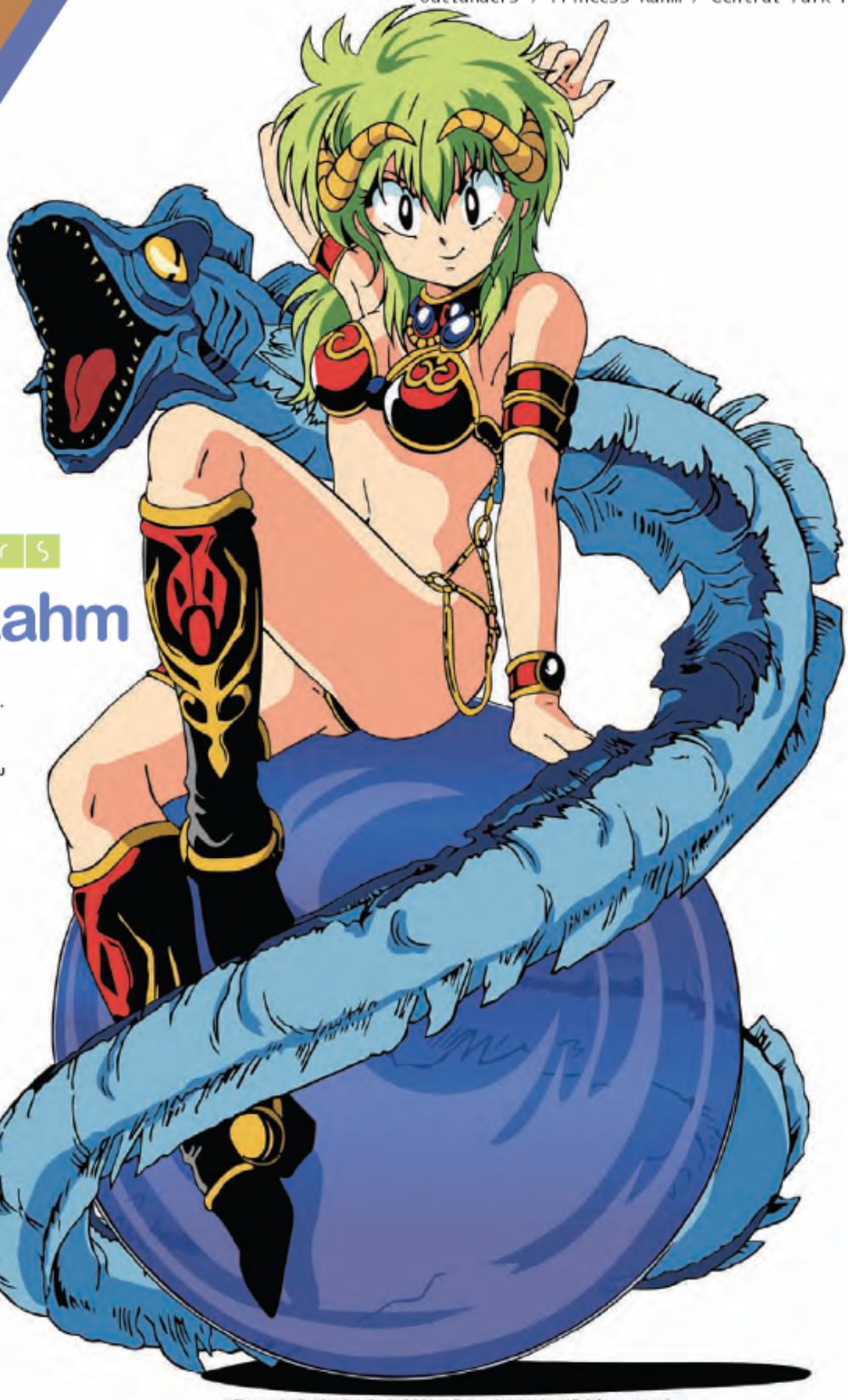
Nadia: The Secret of Blue Water / Nadia / ADV Films



NADIA

Nadia

Know many circus acrobats from Africa? Well now you do. Nadia is in possession of a rare jewel that the bad guys, of course, want. Not the trusting type when it comes to adults, she finds a bond with a kind, young, red-haired boy named Jean... JD



OUTLANDERS

Princess Kahm

If that's a snake, she's Eve. If she offers you an apple, run. Run as fast as you can. Otherwise, you're liable to end up knocked unconscious, brought to outer space, and married to her. Not a story you want to tell your friends about... JD

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Parasite Dolls / ADV Films

Parasite Dolls

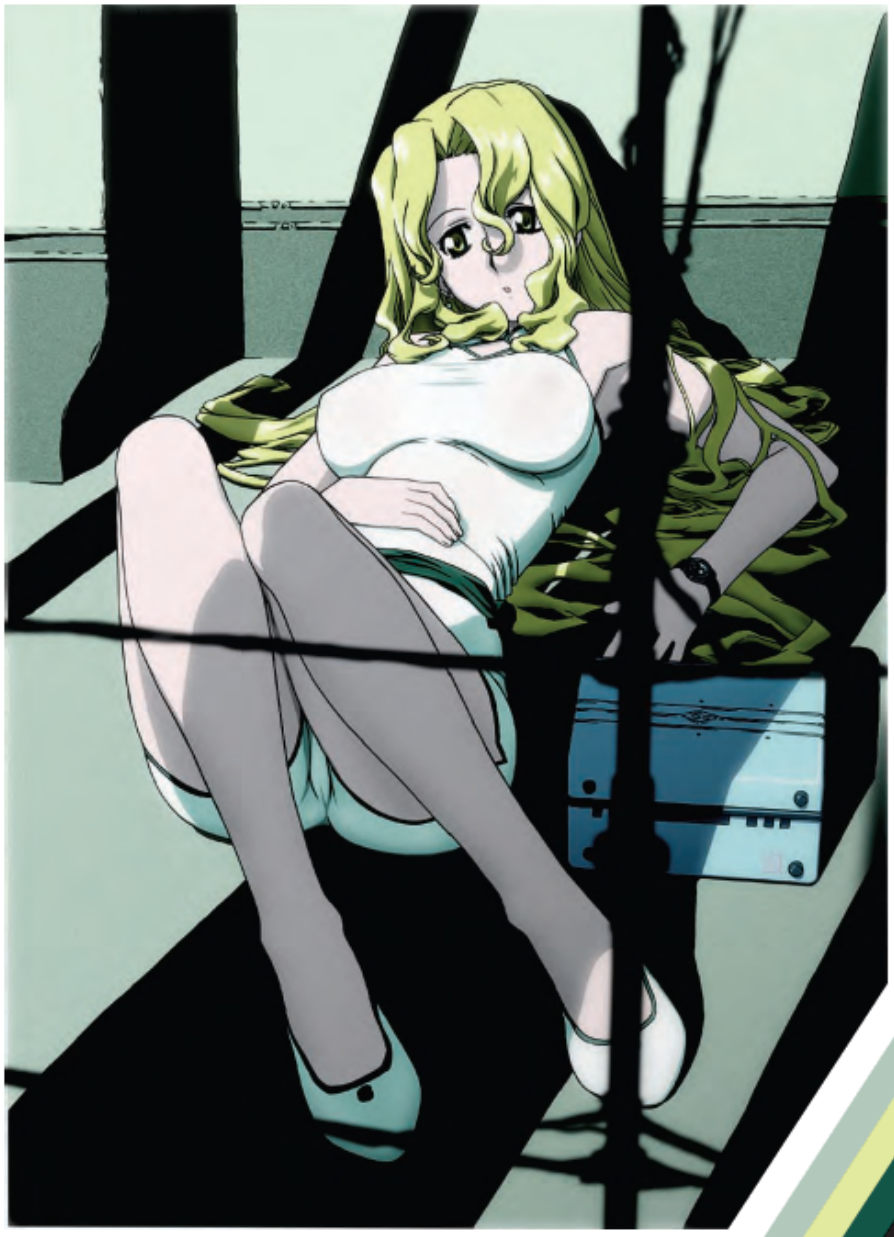
There is a seedy side to the *Bubblegum Crisis* universe, and the androids in them, called "Boomers", don't like being pushed around any more than you would. Trouble is, they can kill without remorse. Most definitely Barbie on a bad day. JD

REQUIEM FROM THE DARKNESS

Ogin

The Puppeteer

During Edo period, as the power of the Tokugawa Shogunate began to crumble, an aspiring author, Momosuke Yamaoka, wanders the country while fulfilling his life's work, a tome called "The 100 Stories". When he happens upon Mataichi the Tricker, Nagamimi the Bird Caller, and Ogin the Puppeteer (deliverers of death assigned to settle cases consigned to the darkness) the stories come fast and shrouded in Hitchcock-like deliverance. DH



read or die

the tv

Michelle Cheung

Much like Yomiko Readman, she takes the term "bibliophile" to near-obscene limits– she'll clean a block of bookstores out of their inventory in under ten minutes flat, all to read over dinner... oh, and then there's that weaponized origami she'll put you down with if you touch any of them. JD

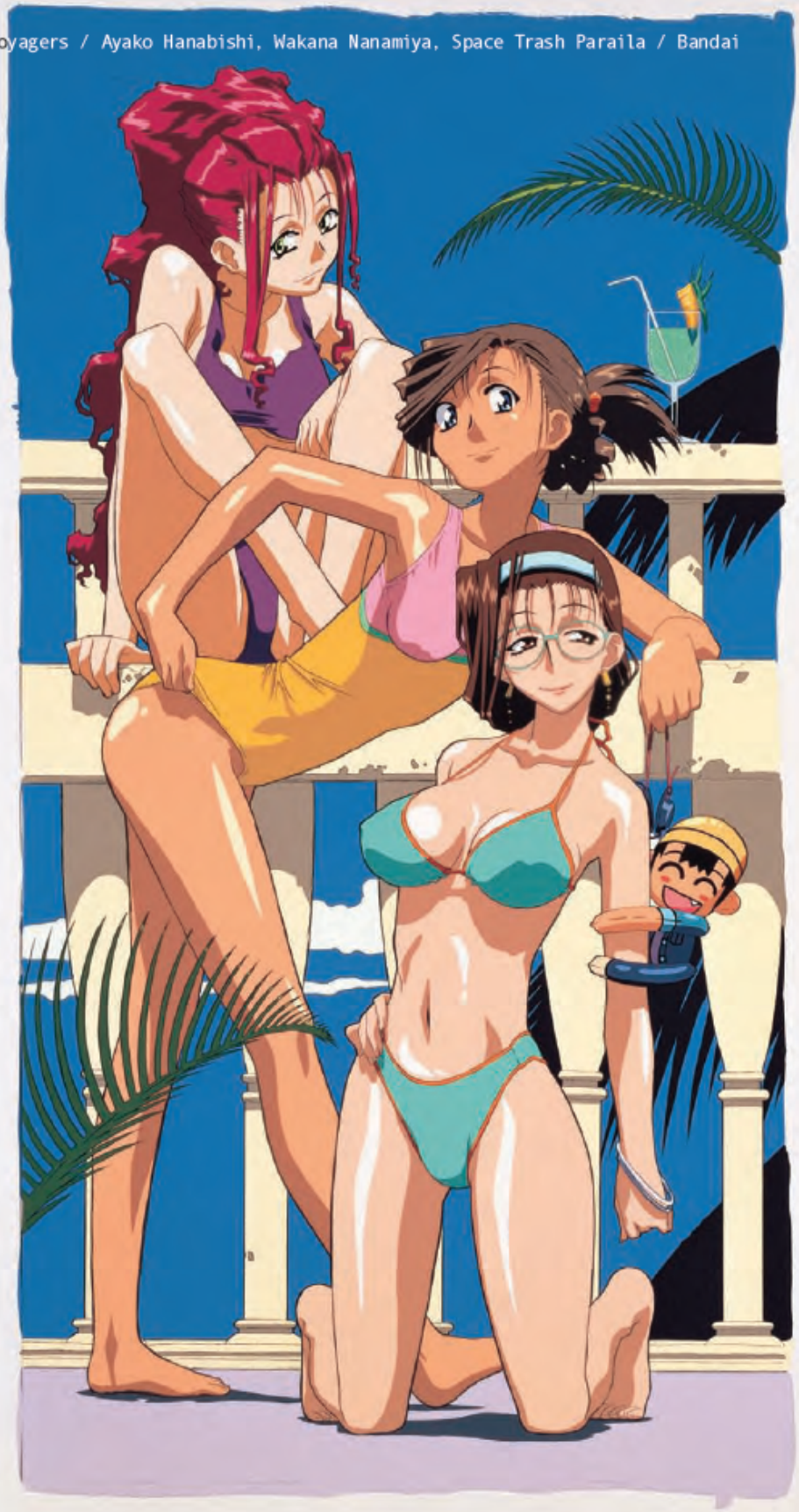
Yomiko Readman

Nancy Makuhari

Nancy's the one that can walk through walls– Yomiko's the one that can cut a doorway through them. Mutants? No, and even more resourceful. This duo makes libraries a very attractive place to be in. JD

MAHOROMATIC
She cooks! She cleans! She'll take out an invading army single-handedly! Even military androids need to retire, and Mahoro's no exception. That still doesn't mean she won't go easy on you when you don't clean your plate... JD
Mahoro

Tenamonya Voyagers / Ayako Hanabishi, Wakana Nanamiya, Space Trash Paraila / Bandai



TENAMONYA VOYAGERS

Space Trash Paraila, Wakana Nanamiya, Ayako Hanabishi

A teacher, a student, and a former crime boss. What could be a more natural pairing? Paraila drags them unwillingly into her hilariously maniacal revenge plot back on Earth... only trouble is, her old cronies and the cops aren't going to make that easy... JD

S-CRY-ED

Sherrice Adjani

Ever the optimist, she brings hope where there may be none. More than just a cheerleader though, she takes on the role as the glue that holds everyone together, even if that means hiding her crush for a fellow teammate... JD

SLAYERS RETURN

Naga and Lina... the Odd Couple of anime. Naga's self-absorbed and boisterous, and Lina... well, has to put up with it. Saleena likes them enough to drag them into her crisis, and as long as the price is right, this pair is always there. JD

Bad boys Souichiro and Bob travel from school to school conquering them one at a time...until they roll up on the Todo Academy and meet Aya and Maya Natsume and have their butts handed to them. Older sister Maya is the leader of the Juuken Club and can transform from a little person into what you see here (blue hair) and do some serious damage, as can Aya, although she has other things on her mind...and body. When Maya kicks Souichiro out of the 3rd-story window, he crashes through the ladies' shower and lands directly on top of Aya, who wastes no time claiming him as her own. DH

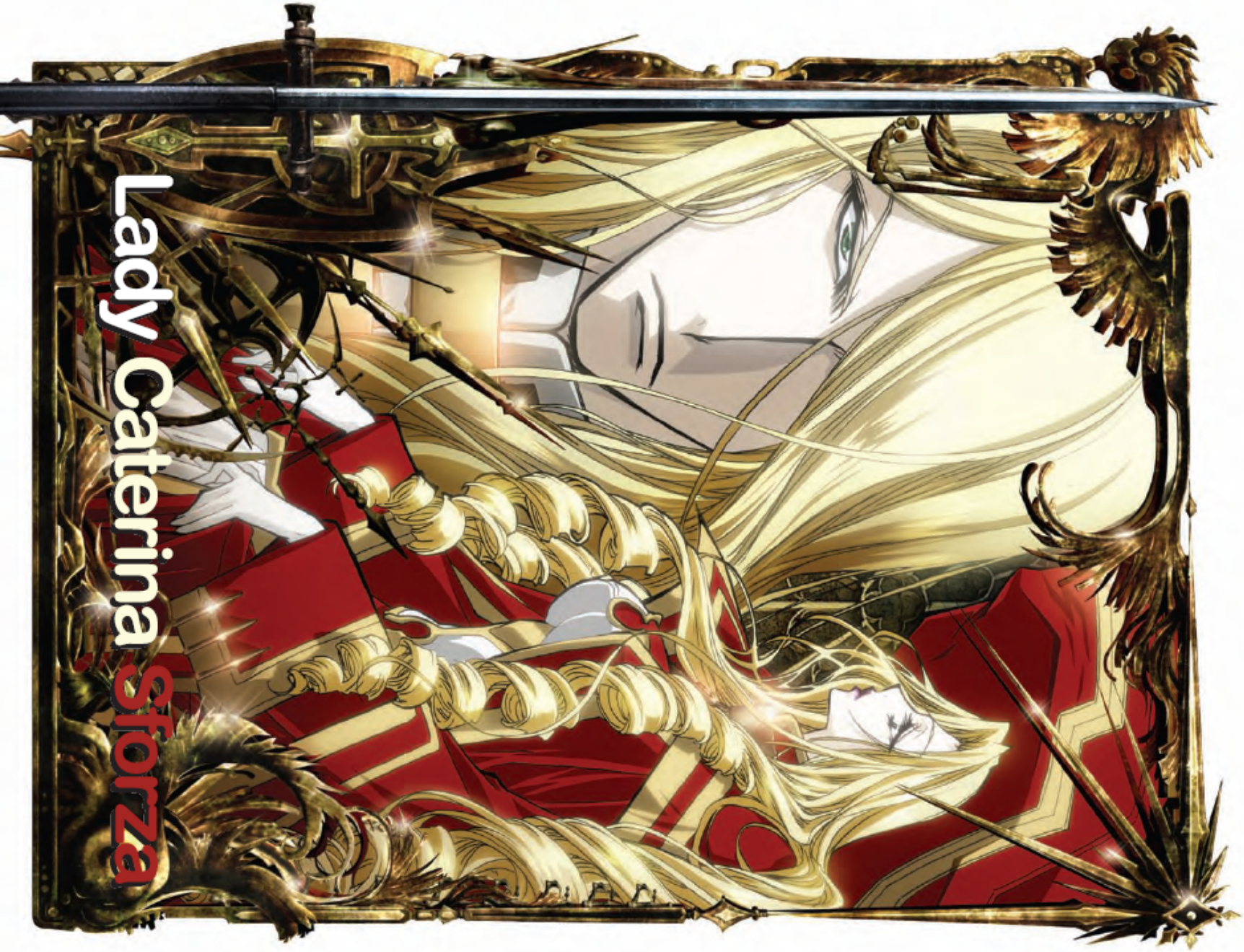
It's a dirty job, but someone's gotta do it... blasting asteroids into bitty chunks, that is. Only this isn't some video game for these space cowgirls—it's a future that can lead to bigger... rocks. Oh well. Just another day in the cosmos. JD

Stratos 4 / Karin Kikuhara, Shizuha Doi, Ayamo Nakamura, Mikaze Honjo / Bandai Entertainment

Sister Noélle Bor

trinity blood

FUNimation's latest depicts a future where vampires and humans battle for supremacy, where the Vatican controls a sect, codename AX, to ward off the powerful vampire insurgence that wants nothing more than to wipe them from the face of the Earth. Vatican Secretary of State Lady Caterina Sforza helps guide the young popar's war strategy while AX member Sister Noélle Bor (codename mistress), a powerful clairvoyant, is more interested in AX leader Abel Nightroad. DH



Trinity Blood / Sister Noélle Bor & Lady Caterina Sforza / FUNimation

Urusei Yatsura / Lum / Central Park Media

URUSEI YATSURA

Lum

She may be older than most of the girls in anime these days, but that still doesn't stop her lengthy adventures from being an icon of beauty amongst them. Tiger stripes win over just about anyone. JD

Dita Liebely

VANDREAD

Fighting in space becomes a lot less stressful when you've got confident, beautiful women around you. Dita's a sweetheart, and Jura's one heck of a den mother despite her sensual curves. JD

Jura Basil Elden

Yuka

When waitresses attack, it is pretty! The VG tournament is all about determining who the toughest waitress is, where the loser must strip naked in front of the home and live audience, billions strong. Like the WWE for boob lovers, it is not to be taken seriously but rather for its variable fighting styles and jiggles-per-minute. However, there is a real story underneath (!) involving black magic, an international conglomerate, the genius of well-paid scientists, the bond between best friends and what it truly means to be alive. DH

VOLTAGE FIGHTER GOWCAIZER

Omni, Makiko, Karin, Suzu

Ohbari, (Battle Arena Toshinden, Fatal Fury) is known for his peculiar character designs and Voltage Fighter Gowcaizers are among his most ornate and flamboyant. Set in the 21st century after a series of earthquakes has reduced much of Tokyo to a wasteland, Isato Kaiza, an otherwise ordinary student is given a Caizer Stone enabling him to go all Power Rangers and transform into the armored hero: Gowcaizer! Fighting alongside him, of course...busty females. DH

WITCH HUNTER ROBIN

Robin

You have to wonder if this is whom Jim Morrison was singing about lighting his fire—bookish, reserved, and can light up a party in the worst way possible. If only all witches looked this attractive... JD

GILGAMESH

Fuko & Uno

Mesopotamian mythology meets sci-fi in Gilgamesh. Fuko and Uno stand on opposite sides of a battle that will determine the fate of mankind. Fuko fights for Orga along side Tatsuya and Koyoko, the children of the man who sought to put an end to humanity in its current form to usher a new age of supreme beings. Uno serves Gilgamesh, and prefers life under the mirrored skies of the new reality that would eventually crush humanity. Gothic, intelligent and captivating—Gilgamesh is much more than just a pretty face. DH

MANGA

MAN MACHINE INTERFACE

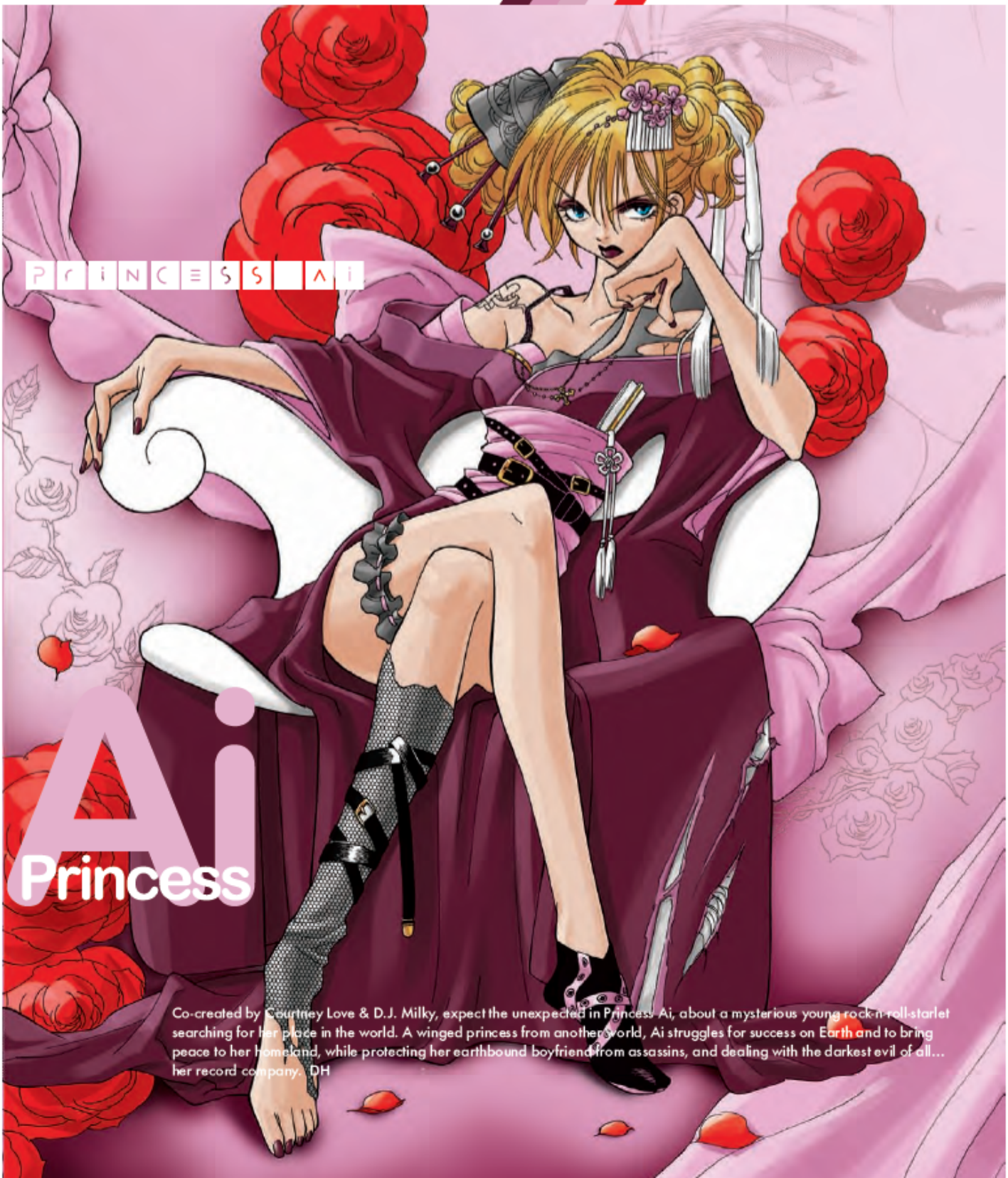
Motoko Aramaki

Here's what women are supposed to look like in 2035—at least hyper-advanced cyborg ones...Goodbye marriage! Shirow Masamune's sequel to Ghost in the Shell delves beyond the confines of Section 9 into the philosophy of artificially-intelligent life—lines that only he has ever been able to blur so eloquently—in one of the most spectacular graphic novels ever published. DH

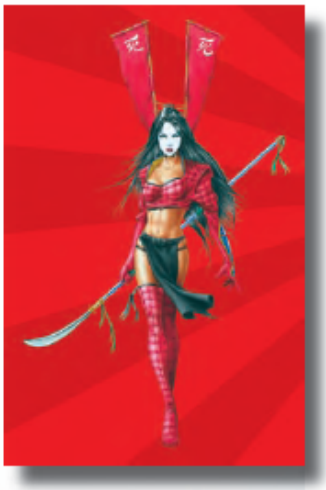
BOYS OF SUMMER

Chrissie

Baseball is not an exclusive boys' club, and Chrissie sets out to prove she's right by joining the college team. With a fire in her belly, she's not going to put up with advances from any guy, even Bud, nice guy though he may be...JD



Co-created by Courtney Love & D.J. Milky, expect the unexpected in Princess Ai, about a mysterious young rock-n-roll-starlet searching for her place in the world. A winged princess from another world, Ai struggles for success on Earth and to bring peace to her homeland, while protecting her earthbound boyfriend from assassins, and dealing with the darkest evil of all... her record company. DH



In SHI, named after the mysterious "Shi" killings in New York City, Yoshitora Ishikawa must come in from the cold to settle an age-old score by crossing enemy lines and the mafia to let the cards fall during a performance of the classic Kabuki Theater production Yoshitsune Sembonzakura. Can Shi pull it off...kill them all? It's a climax you won't want to miss in one of the year's most stunning graphic novels. DH

SHI

SHI

SPARACIO

GALAXY ANGEL

Ranpha Franboise

At first, she may come off as a domineering, pushy woman who's only interested in wealthy men, but beneath that smoldering red dress is someone who puts everyone else's feelings ahead of her own. JD

Shirow Masamune / Intron Depot / Dark Horse Books

SHIROW MASAMUNE
STEAM ANGEL

Intron Depot 2 Blades

2181

With 2181 Shirow thought using 3D applications would make it easy to create reflections and mirror effects but seemed displeased with the results, stating that not only was he fooling himself, but that "you need to start with a good design". Still, overall he was pleased with the piece's "liberated" feeling.

2058

2058 was created for a book sleeve but Shirow didn't get it on time. Reading the novel later he was relieved that his image wouldn't have fit anyway. He cites that his favorite aspect of the work is her patterns on her armor over stomach and chest

Shirow Masamune / Intron Depot / Dark Horse Books

2172

Creating 2172's hair, Shirow was reminded of the Greek mythos of Medusa, whose hair was made of dozens of snakes. Around the world hair standing on end is universal for fear or surprise, while in Japan, in the old days, people used to say their hair got thicker or fat.

2023

In which Shirow poses the question: is this a gryphon that's swept up a young woman as one of its treasures or a young woman using a gryphon to get rich?

2209

Drawn six years after her predecessor, 2209 was Shirow's move from analog to digital that wasn't supposed to show the fact that he'd jumped formats. 2209 also lost the original loin cloth.

XxxHOLiC / Yuko Ichihara / Del Rey

XXXHOLiC

Yuko Ichihara

Yuko Ichihara (a false name, of course), also known as "The Witch of Dimensions" and "The Witch of Space-Time", is, quite simply, a wish-granter. She may be able to fulfill your heart's desire, but will always demand something equal to the power required to grant the wish. For xxxHOLiC protagonist Kimihiro Watanuki the demand is innocuous servitude...but the requirements can often be much, much more dire. NDB

Artist: Toshiyuki Osakabe

MATURE

Gantz / Kei Kishimoto / ADV Films

It sucks being almost dead... even worse when you're made to jump through hoops just to have eternal peace. Still, Kishimoto makes the best of it, and stands behind her fellow beyonder Kurono... and perhaps finds love along the way...

MATURE

GHOST TALKER'S DAYDREAM

It's really hard to do your job domineering willing slaves when dead people want to talk your head off. A girl's gotta earn a living, after all, even if both talents are a bummer. Working for the man or whipping them into submission, Ms. Saiki has seen the dark side of mankind far too often... JD

Misaki Saiki

MATURE

Life was pretty average for sisters Minami, Ushio, and Yuuhi, until a giant god awoke from its slumber and marched across Tokyo Bay to meet its betrothed. No sooner than the military is trying to blast it into oblivion, Neo Ranga becomes a tourist attraction and the girls three kings of its island-resting place of Barou. But is Neo Ranga god or devil? (Like anyone is looking at Neo Ranga). Embodied in the island's swirling ancient markings, the sisters originally appeared painted black until a recent thin-pack collection was released featuring all 5 covers in the flesh. DH

Ushio

MATURE

Minami

MATURE

MATURE

Shirow Masamune / Intron Depot / Dark Horse Books

SHIROW MASAMUNE

STEAM ANGEL

Intron Depot 2 Blades

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GIRLS OF ANIME
play magazine
Artist: Randy Green

GIRLS OF ANIME

volume 1

AX edition

Witchblade / Funimation

TEAM
SKYLARK
AR GROUPS,inc
AR GROUPS,inc
AR GROUPS,inc
IGPX

Ikki Tousen / Geneon Ent.
IKKI TOUSEN
AX edition

Eureka Seven / Bandai

Shana / Geneon Ent.
SHANA
AX edition

SPEED GRAPHER

Gun Sword / Geneon Ent.
GUN SWORD

MEZZO

AX edition